



Naples Council on World Affairs

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2013/2014

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NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS NEWS & VIEWS

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President's Message

Many of us originally joined the NCWA for the regular Monday lectures, and this year has started off with three excellent ones. They were just a "taste" of the outstanding lectures to come. Beyond that, I invite your attention to other opportunities the Council offers you. The Committee for Special Activities has arranged three additional, timely lectures that will have limited seating and require a separate registration.



New this year is the NCWA Book Club which will offer small group discussions of topics and books related to recent lectures. In addition, in February we will host the biennial Captain James T. Bush National War College Seminar. I urge you to consult the website, www.NCWA-fl.org, and watch your email to be sure you do not miss out on these opportunities to make the most of your membership.

Recently, with several other Board members, I attended the national meeting of the World Affairs Councils of America. Some of you may be surprised to learn that this Council is one of the five largest in the country. This was a meeting of the leaders of the various world affairs councils from throughout the country, and it was an honor and a privilege to discuss our programs. In particular what sets us off is not just the excellence of our programs but our ability to accomplish everything we do without a paid staff because of the volunteer spirit of our members.

As always, the panels were educational, and exciting and dynamic speakers included Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Senators Portman (R-OH) and Blumenthal (D-CT), Michael Chertoff and Laura Bush. Topics covered were National Security including Cyber Security, US Education, Energy Independence, and the Middle East among others. It was gratifying to see that our programs for this season fit so well with the national issues. I will tell you when the video of the event is available and where to find it.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish each of you a safe and joyous holiday season and look forward to starting the New Year with all of you at the January 6th lecture.

Judith Lipnick, *President*

Thanks to our photographers Bradlee White and Debbie Doyle!

Committee for Special Activities

The CSA will have a few active months with our first program on December 12th when Dr. Shibley Telhami will present his new book, *The World Through Arab Eyes: Arab Public Opinion and The Reshaping of The Middle East*. Dr. Telhami's reputation as a renowned political scientist and Professor at the University of Maryland endorses his summation of decades of public opinion polls across six Arab countries, providing a true portrait of how Arabs view the world.

Dr. Telhami's book will be the second in a series of five that are being offered as part of our new Book Club, led by Bill Korstad. We hope you will join us for this event.

Next on the calendar will be Stephen Kinzer's latest book: *The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allan Dulles, and Their Secret World War*. Speaking to us on January 27th, Stephen Kinzer will draw a personality picture of these two brothers and their common vision to run Washington with people like themselves!

Both of these book events will be held in the Seminar Room at the Claussen Center at St. John's, 625 11th Avenue, North Naples, at 10 am.

Finally, mark your calendars for our biennial event with the National War College which will take place on Friday, February 28th at the Hilton Hotel. This is an all-day event, including lunch, and will focus on the "Centennial of Modern Warfare". As we approach the 100th anniversary of the First World War and learn more each day about remote management of warfare and the threats of cyber warfare, let the War College experts define the look of today's American Soldier.



Mimi C. Gregory, *Director of Programs*



Early season speakers have drawn large audiences.

Great Decisions Program

By the end of November more than 650 NCWA members and associate members had registered for the 2014 Great Decisions program. With two new discussion groups added, we will have 22 groups in total and most of them are filled to capacity. The topics for discussion will be:

1. Defense technology
2. Israel
3. Turkey
4. Islamic awakening
5. Energy independence
6. Food and climate
7. China's foreign policy
8. U.S. trade policy.



The sessions will begin during the week of January 20-24, 2014, and continue through the week of March 10-14, 2014. Early January the topic videos, as well as the briefing book ballots, will be posted on our web site www.ncwa-fl.org.

When reading this Newsletter all members who have registered should have received a postcard confirming their group assignment and giving information about the briefing book distribution. For most groups the book distribution will be at the Clausen Center at St. John's Church on Saturday, January 11, 2014; for the groups in the Moorings Presbyterian Church and the Covenant Church it will be on Monday, January 13. The postcard will state the time and place.

I wish you an interesting and enjoyable discussion season.

Maas van den Top, *Chair*

2014 Annual NCWA Dinner

The ever-popular NCWA Annual Dinner will again be held in mid-April at the Port Royal Club in Naples.

Please stay tuned for the date and further details coming soon.

Program Committee

Our lecture series began as we welcomed Ambassador Steven Pifer to the podium on November 4th. I think it is a measure of the state of the globe that even our early lectures, while not quite season, have seen absolutely full attendance. Of course that has also been enhanced by our first two speakers who addressed issues that are current, pertinent, and present the United States with challenging foreign policy decisions. A perfect example could certainly be our tentative relationship with President Vladimir Putin as we address issues of nuclear disarmament; and by the way isn't Ukraine enjoying the fruits of rebellion as "Volodya" puts the screws to President Yanukoyvich? December 2nd provided us with an earful of information from Ambassador Pifer on NPR's "All Things Considered" and later on the PBS "News Hour" with Judy Woodruff. In summary, Ambassador Pifer sees President Yanukoyvich as a "short-term" thinker, a fault that clouds the advantages offered long term by association of his country with the European Union.



Ambassador Steven Pifer

In addition to Ambassador Steven Pifer's excellent presentation to us, his visit to Palmetto Ridge High School was a revelation to the "old folks" who attended (two Council members) as the students were thoroughly engaged and had very good questions both prepared and extemporaneous.



Amb. Pifer speaks to Palmetto Ridge High School.

Not to be outdone, Dr. Steven Cook rolled up his sleeves, sat on the edge of the stage at Lely High School and drew a map of information surrounding the Middle East for Sharon Murray's students. This followed his two presentations to our members on November 18th and his usual energy was most apparent. Drawing on his personal experiences, as well as his professional knowledge, Dr. Cook addressed the role of Turkey and the possible emergence of a "New Ottoman Empire" in the changing boundaries of the Middle East. As always, he can be counted upon for a most informative presentation.



Dr. Steven Cook

Of course many of you undoubtedly read his blog: "From the Potomac to The Euphrates" and he shared some of the changes in play in Egypt at the time of his presentation. Different factions taking to the streets in Cairo are being limited by new regulations preventing demonstrations and undoubtedly the military are anxious to curtail the Morsi supporters from further rebellion. The "New Pharaoh of Egypt," Al Sisi, has become quite a cult figure with products such as SISI Dates, CC Cookies, and now Al Sisi pajamas with the General's picture on the back have hit the streets...what's next?

Program Committee *Continued*

Now today is December 3rd, and the news on the BBC this morning announced the removal from power of Kim Jong Un's top Military Chief and the execution of two of his associates. Coming on the heels of our presentation by Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, this piece of news from the enigma that is North Korea was shattering. News of this nature is rarely in the headlines and the release from South Korea of further changes in the "top brass" in Pyongyang is undoubtedly a surprise to global news media.



Dr. Cook speaks on world affairs panel.



Ambassador Stephen Bosworth

Ambassador Bosworth's presentation drew a picture of a closed part of Northeast Asia where the struggle of the population to survive in a malnourished land is their greatest challenge. Containment of their nuclear capabilities is the challenge that other nations face in an ongoing effort to reach a working agreement with this country whose leader operates on "brinkmanship".

As the former U.S. Special Representative for North Korean Policy and with his personal experience working with "the world's wildcard", Ambassador Bosworth is frustrated by the few policy choices available to us and the opportunities for diplomatic achievement. The concern of possible re-unification of the Korean Peninsula weighs heavily on the Chinese and other neighbors who watch the unfolding mystery surrounding this third generation leader.



Amb. Bosworth meets the press with Secretary of State Clinton.

Mimi C. Gregory, Director of Programs



Amb. Bosworth being welcomed by North Korean officials.

Outreach Committee

Our committee customarily deals with high schools and occasionally middle schools. We have been at this business long enough to see many of these students pass on to the university level and beyond, and some of our committee members have kept up with them in an ad hoc fashion. We thought it would be both interesting and useful to try to get them together to see what kind of citizens they have become and what effect their participation in our programs has had on them.



What better person to turn to in this effort than former committee chairman Chuck Stuart, who developed warm, friendly relations with virtually all of our scholarship students over the past three years. Chuck is now in contact with 36 “alumni” and hopes to bring many of them together with members of the committee at some point during the year—probably during an academic break. We all are very much looking forward to it.

Several of our Board members and a few other Council members attended the National Conference of the World Affairs Councils of America in Washington in November. We were happy to be able to arrange for two of our former scholarship recipients to attend as part of a group of about 25 university-level students from all around the country.

The “ordinary” business of the committee continues apace, centering for the moment on the upcoming Academic World Quests at the Middle School and High School levels to be held at the Community School on February 15 and March 15, respectively. Members of the Council are invited to come and witness the students in action, and, if they choose, to take the tests along with the students. It’s always a humbling experience. Again, it’s February 15 and March 15, which are Saturdays, and the event starts at 9 am, lasting until about 11 am. No tickets are necessary, and you can come and go at any time. Please come and join us.

We invite all members to visit our Outreach section of the Council’s website (ncwa-fl.org) to see who we are and what we are up to. I can tell you here, though, in simple terms what we are up to. It’s to make better global citizens of our local high school students, and to perhaps steer some of them into careers in foreign relations.

To end on a sad note, most of you are aware of the passing of Jack Richards, a fine gentleman with a brilliant career in secondary education in New England. Jack was chairman of the Outreach Committee for several years and was the prime mover in its growth to what it is today. We all loved working with him, and we all miss him very much. His wife, Wendy, very kindly suggested that any gifts in his memory be dedicated to a Jack Richards Scholarship Fund to be managed by the Outreach Committee. To make a gift, members should call the Council at 649-3492. Credit cards can be used.

Daniel Bumstead, *Outreach Chair*

SWFL Model United Nations Program

Preparations are well underway for the 2014 Model UN Session (March 6 and 7) to be held at Florida Gulf Coast University. You recently received a request for financial support and you will soon be asked to volunteer for various positions, including judges, position paper readers and administrative assistants.

Some background information about the Model UN's history and size (international) may be of interest:

The first Model UN-type meeting was run by Harvard University in 1927; it was called the Model League of Nations Assembly. In 1946 the League of Nations was abolished and the United Nations was formed. The Model UN was established in 1947. Harvard's claim to have formed the first Model UN in 1952 is disputed--no, not by Yale, but by Berkeley, also in 1952. (No date could be found for the beginning of Yale's Model UN.)

There are now about 400 Model UN Conferences held annually throughout the world, taking place in more than 35 countries. Depending on location, the average Conference can have as few as 30 students or as many as 2,000. High schools, colleges and universities are usually the sponsors. More than one million people have participated in these conferences during the past fifty years. Model UN conferences are always held in the English language.

Our Model UN is unique. The maximum number of students is 350; judges, position paper readers and administrative assistants are all from one outside organization--the Naples Council on World Affairs--and we award scholarships.

We owe our success to you, our members, for your continuing support, both financially and in filling the many volunteer positions necessary to make this Model UN such a success.

Earl H. Anderson, *Chairman*



Students assigned to represent countries compete in the Model United Nations program.



Students assigned to the South African, Moroccan & South Korean delegation in the Model United Nations program.



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LECTURE BROADCASTS

Our Lecture Series is aired on
Sunday nights at 8:00 pm
after the Monday lectures

Thanks to our partnership with WGCU-FM, Public Media

The lectures can be heard on
WGCU: 90.1 FM, Naples and
WMKO: 91.7 FM, Marco Island

Gregory E. Hudson, *Newsletter Editor*